

Restoration in the Truckee River Watershed

Beth Christman
Truckee River Watershed
Council

A decorative graphic consisting of several thick, light gray wavy lines that flow from the bottom left towards the bottom right, mimicking the shape of a river or a winding path.



TruckeeRiverWatershedCouncil

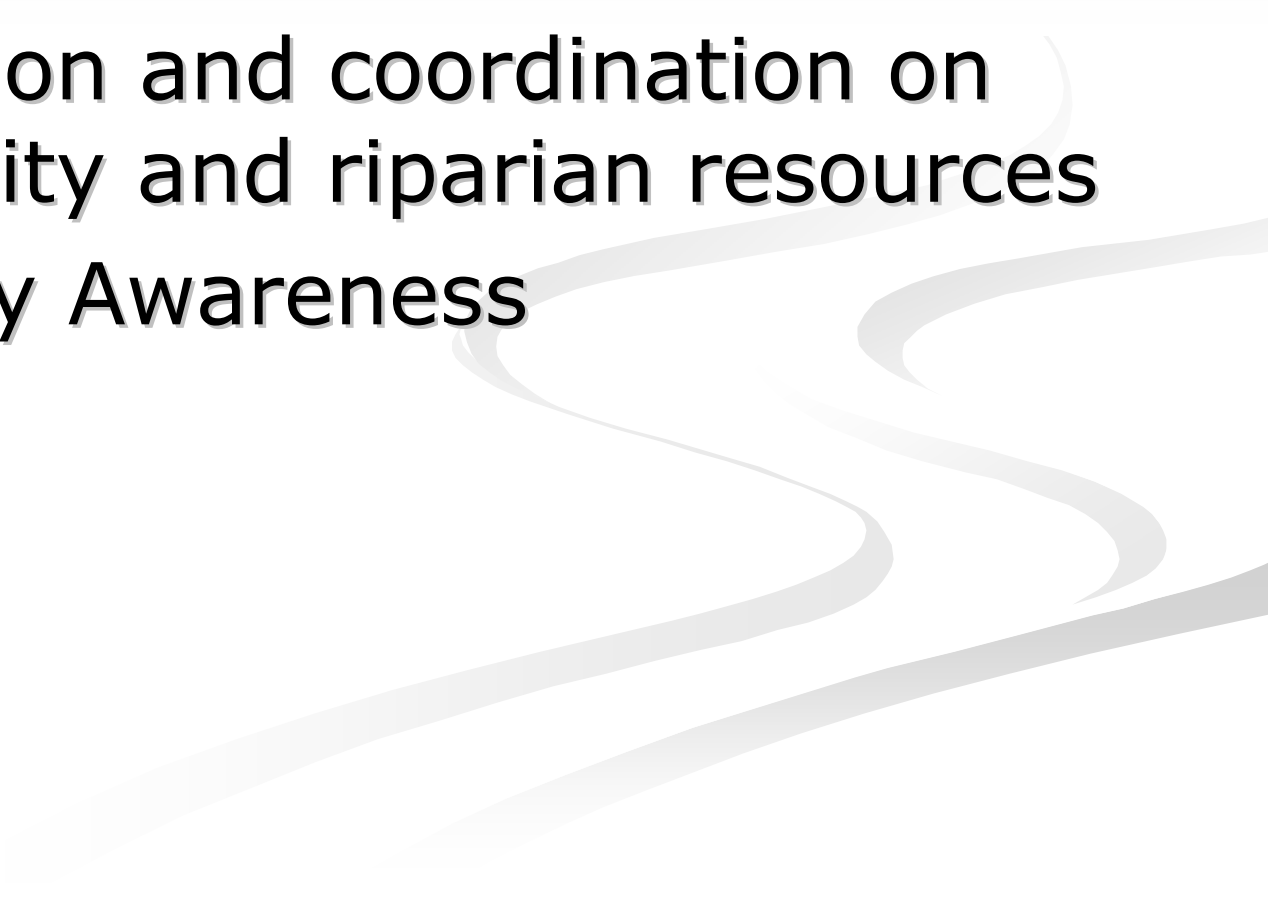
Collaborative solutions to protect, enhance and restore the Truckee River Watershed

The mission of the TRWC is to bring
the community

Together for the Truckee

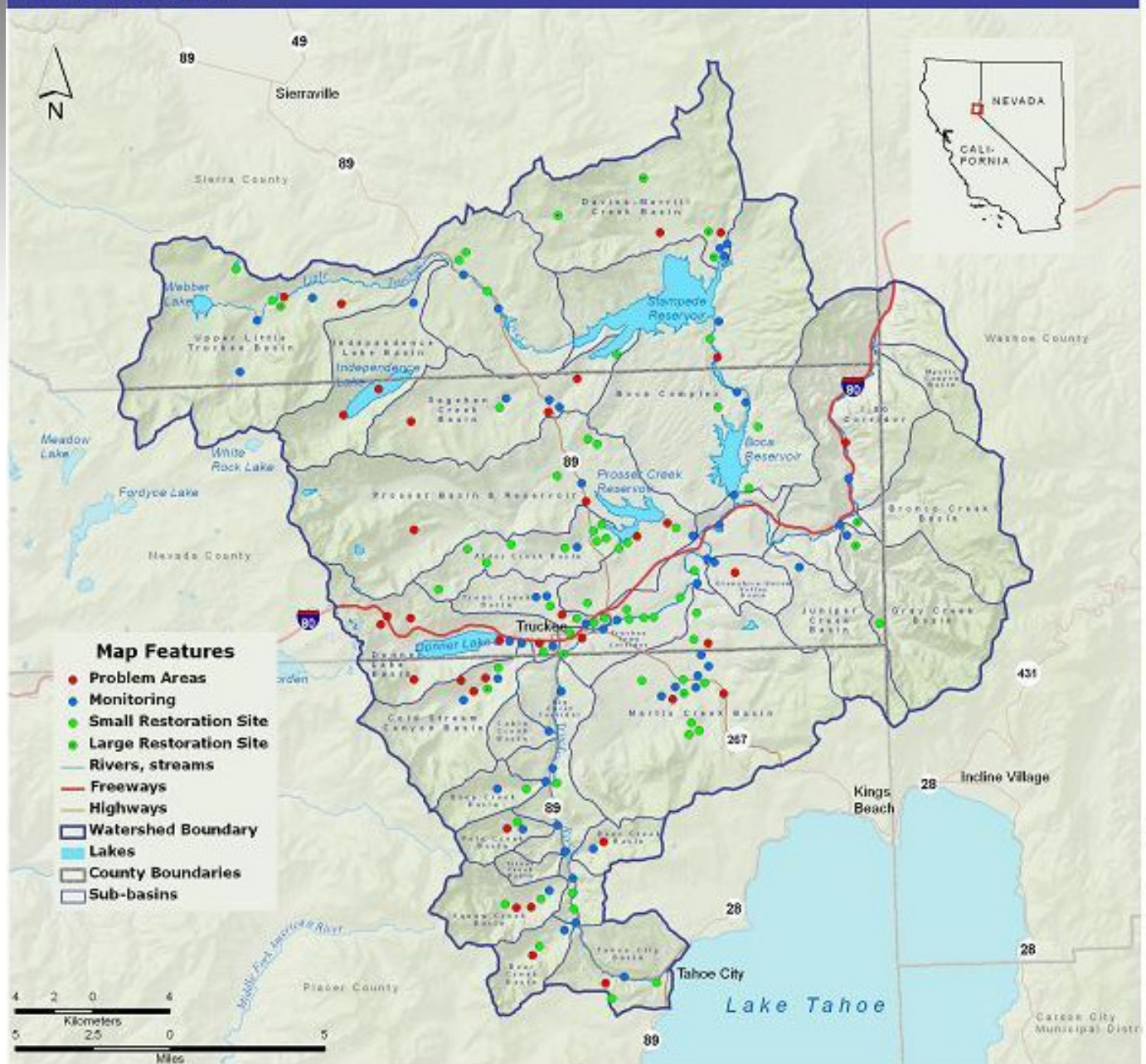
We restore, enhance and protect the
Truckee River watershed

Work Areas

- Riparian, meadow and wetland restoration
 - Collaboration and coordination on water quality and riparian resources
 - Community Awareness
- 
- A decorative graphic consisting of several overlapping, wavy, light gray lines that flow from the right side of the slide towards the bottom left, creating a sense of movement and depth.

- 7 dams
- Five 303(d) listed waters
- 2 clear cuts
- Railroad
- Interstate
- Gravel mining
- Grazing

Watershed Projects: Completed, Ongoing and Planned for the Middle Truckee River Watershed

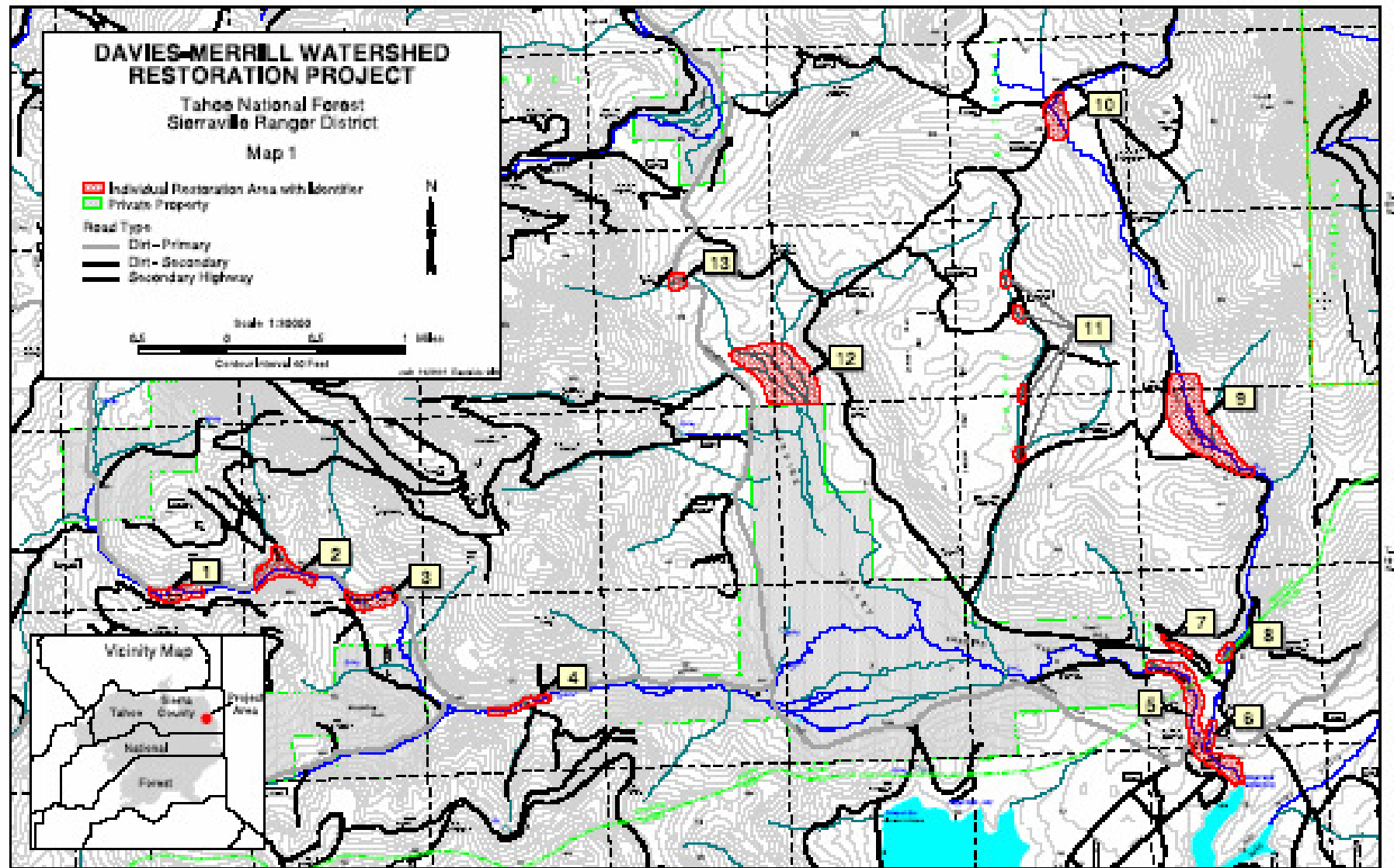


Davies Merrill Restoration

- Reduce active erosion
- Improve wetland and riparian habitat



TRWC & USFS Partnership



Water quality and habitat degradation

- **Sedimentation**
 - Affects physical and chemical properties of water
 - Degrades fish & macroinvertebrate habitat
- **Lowered water tables**
 - Reduces meadow size and quality
 - Decreases riparian vegetation

What's the problem?

- Historic railroad grades
- Stream diversion
- Floodplain restriction



What's the problem?



- Incised channels
- Increased erosion
- Excessive sedimentation



What can we do?

- Remove railroad grades
- Restore natural hydrologic pattern
- Restore floodplain area



"Plug and Pond"

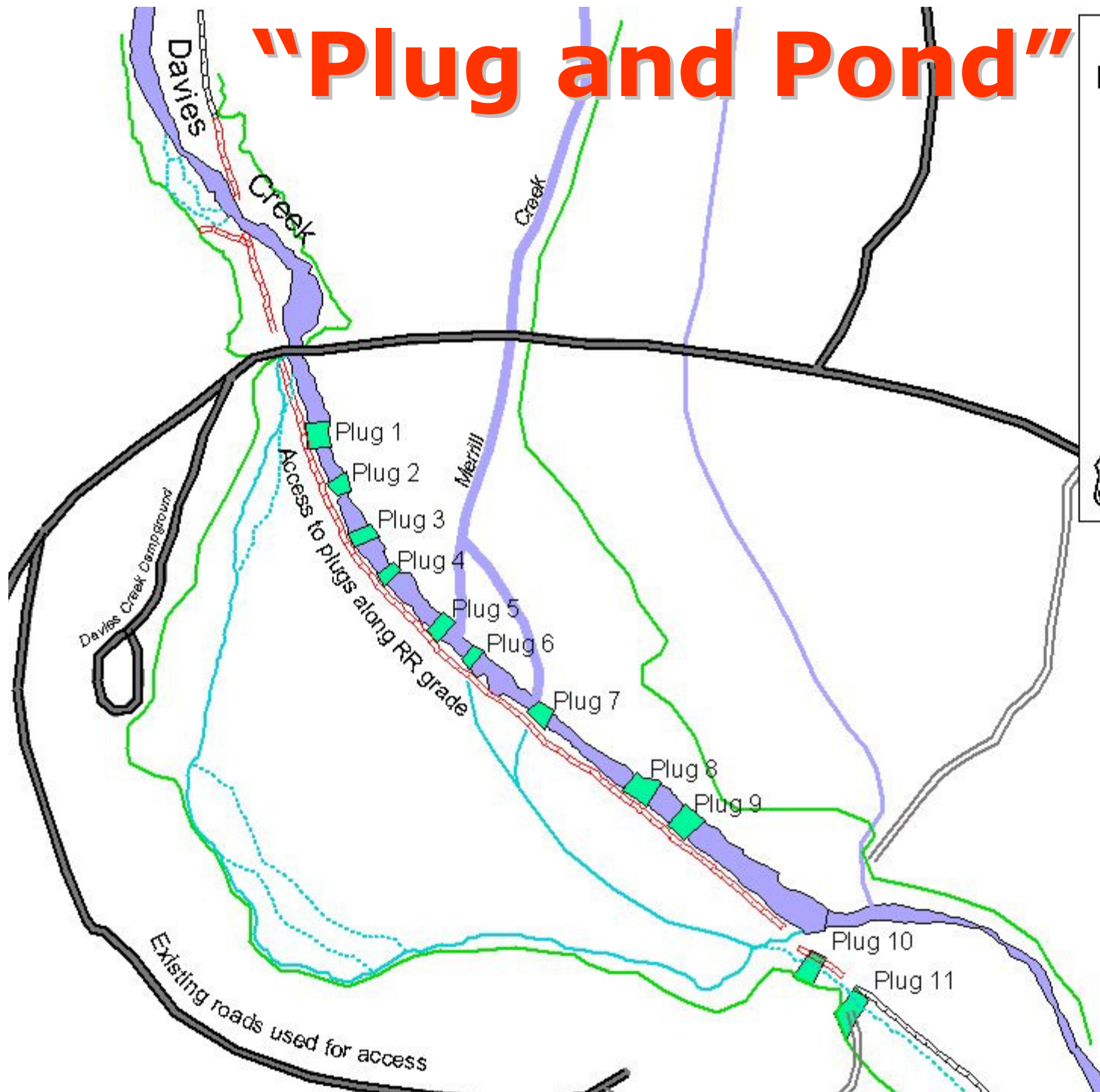
Lower End Site 5 Davies-Merrill Watershed Restoration Project

Tahoe National Forest
Sierraville Ranger District

- Incised Channel
- Merrill Creek
- Secondary Remnant Channel
- Main Remnant Channel
- Meadow Edge
- Proposed Plug Area
- RR Grade to be removed
- RR Grade
- Present-day Road
- Old Road Grade



Created 5/19/2004 jja



Existing channel



Remnant channel



2005 work

- Removal of grade at site 6
- Plug and pond at Lower Site 5
- Re-vegetation work at Site 5



2006 work

- Plug and pond at sites 2 & 12
- Extensive volunteer re-vegetation effort
- Installed groundwater monitoring wells
- Began vegetation monitoring



2007 work



- Completed site 2 & 12
- Plug and Pond site 3
- Remove old road site 4
- Continue monitoring



6/1/2001



12.02.2005

Monitoring results

- Vegetation monitoring shows slight decrease in sagebrush
- Water table monitoring in progress
- Bioassessment in progress



Sediment reduction



- Estimated annual reduction of 500 cy fine sediment from active erosion
- Undetermined amount from upper watershed

Project Partners & Funding

- Truckee River Watershed Council
- U.S. Forest Service
- State Water Resources Control Board
 - 319h and Prop 13
- Sierra Nevada Alliance
- Bella Vista Foundation
- Sierra Nevada Conservancy

Questions?

For more info:
www.truckeeriverwc.org

What's the problem?

- Active headcutting
- Further instability
- Groundwater loss





Davies-Merrill timeline

2005: Sites 5 & 6

2006: Sites 2, 5 & 12

2007: Sites 2, 3, 4

2008: Project planning 8, 9, 10

2009: Start construction at 8, 9, 10

■ Monitoring on-going

December 2005



- First storm
- Stream in remnant channel
- Plug #1 low
- Sandbags added

January 2006

- Heavy rain event
- November fix held

